



# alaska judicial council

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<http://www.ajc.state.ak.us>

E-mail: [postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us)

January 3, 2020

Re: Alaska Supreme Court, Justice Stowers Position  
Palmer District Court, Judge Zwink Position

Dear Member of the Alaska Bar Association:

The Alaska Judicial Council invites qualified attorneys to apply for a vacancy on the Alaska Supreme Court created by the forthcoming retirement of Justice Craig Stowers, effective June 1, 2020, and a vacancy on the Palmer District Court created by the forthcoming retirement of Judge David Zwink, effective August 17, 2020. This letter provides essential information about the positions and the application deadline. For additional information, please contact the Judicial Council at 279-2526, or by e-mail at [sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us).

Alaska judges must conform their conduct to the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct and the laws of Alaska and the United States. They must be familiar with Alaska law, procedure, and trial practice. A supreme court justice must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.05.070. He or she must: be a citizen of the United States and of the State of Alaska; be a resident of Alaska for five years immediately preceding appointment; have engaged in the active practice of law, as defined in AS 22.05.070, for not less than eight years immediately preceding appointment; and must be licensed to practice law in Alaska at the time of appointment.

A district court judge must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.15.160. He or she must: be a citizen of the United States and of the State of Alaska; be at least 21 years of age; be a resident of Alaska for at least five years immediately preceding appointment; and either (1) have engaged in the active practice of law, as defined in AS 22.05.070, for not less than three years immediately preceding appointment and be licensed to practice law in Alaska at the time of appointment, or (2) have served for at least seven years as a magistrate in the state. In addition, Administrative Rule 19.1 requires that a magistrate who seeks appointment as a district court judge be a graduate of a law school accredited or approved by the Council of Legal Education of the American Bar Association or the Association of American Law Schools.

The annual salary of a supreme court justice is \$205,179. The annual salary of a Palmer District Court Judge is \$160,848. Justices and judges also receive personal leave as established by the Administrative Rules of Court, state-paid health and dental benefits, and judicial retirement system benefits.

Application forms for these positions may be obtained by visiting the Council's Internet site: [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us). Application forms may also be obtained by writing or calling the Alaska Judicial Council. Completed applications for these positions must be received by the Alaska Judicial Council no later than **3:00 p.m. on February 14, 2020**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanne DiPietro". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Susanne" and last name "DiPietro" clearly legible.

Susanne DiPietro  
Executive Director

(att: Alaska Supreme Court position description; Palmer District Court position description)